

REMARKS

A Petition for Extension of Time is being filed concurrently herewith.

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled. Claims 6-11 have been amended. New claims 12-18 have been added.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rostoker. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-3 and submits new claims 12-18 in lieu of the cancelled claims. Applicant believes that newly added claims 12-18 are patentable in view of Rostoker.

In particular, Applicant submits that Rostoker fails to disclose or suggest at least step (d) of claim 12. According to the claimed invention, an etching process is performed to decrease thickness of the spacers, thereby increasing a line-width of a trench to be formed in subsequent processes. After a careful study of Rostoker, it is believed that Rostoker neither discloses nor suggests this feature of the claimed invention. The Examiner is invited to point out any passages which describe or suggest this step.

Therefore, at least for the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that new claims 12-18 are not anticipated by Rostoker under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

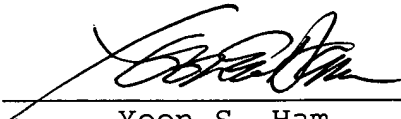
Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rostoker as above in view Yamazaki et al. Again, Applicant will discuss this rejection in view of newly added claims 12-18.

As set forth above, Rostoker has failed to disclose or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention. It is also submitted that Yamazaki et al. does not supply the above-noted deficiencies of Rostoker. Therefore, newly added claims 12-18 are not made obvious over Rostoker in view of Yamazaki et al under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 4-11 are allowed.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-18 are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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